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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SANTIAGO 001686

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR WHA/BSC, NEA

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: CHILE'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Classified By: Ambassador Craig A. Kelly. Reasons: 1.4 (b and d).

Summary

11. (S) Chile's Muslim community is fractured and comprises less than one half of one percent of the country's population. The Palestinian con

Low Numbers and a Slow Start

12. (U) The July transit bombings in London have prompted a few articles in the Chilean press looking at Chile's Muslim population. According

13. (U) In 1926, the Society of United Chilean Muslims was founded in Santiago, followed in 1927 by the Islamic Society of Mutual Aid and Chari

Fractured Community

14. (U) Chile's Muslim community is also fractured, as illustrated by recent polemics over control and direction of the Mohammed VI Cultural Ce

15. (U) In response, Fuad Musa, Shiite president of the Santiago-based Center for Islamic Culture, has called for the Chilean authorities to ir

16. (U) According to a web-based report by a young Chilean Muslim, a Tabligh faction began to dominate the Santiago mosque in 1998. While of t

Chileans Tolerant but Wary

17. (U) Touching on the Coquimbo mosque and London attacks, an August 1 article in the daily "La Segunda" asked prominent Chilean historian J

Chile's "Palestinian" Population: Virtually all Christian

18. (U) Chile has a large Palestinian community, with government officials asserting Chile has the largest Palestinian community -- at 350,000

Comment

19. (S) The Embassy actively works with the GOC to encourage monitoring of Chile's Muslim organizations, particularly groups connected with the

110. (S/NF) The small size of Chile's Muslim community, and its apparent balkanization, means there is little information generally available c
KELLY